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KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

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DIRECT EDITION

HEROIC AGE

KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-THREE

DARK ALLIANCE

PART TWO OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT...
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

SPAZ

"THE DARK LEGION WAS NEVER DEFEATED. WE WERE STABBED IN THE BACK BY THE WEAK AND GREEDY IN POWER. THE TRUE ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION IS DESTINED TO RULE THE WORLD OF MOBIUS. ONLY A STRONG LEADER — SUCH AS MYSELF — CAN SAVE ECHIDNAPOLIS FROM THE RADICALS AND TECHNO-CONSERVATIVES WHO WOULD WISH US BACK INTO THE STONE AGE."

MENNIKER, ADDRESSING HIS TROOPS AFTER EMERGING FROM THEIR IMPRISONMENT IN ANOTHER ZONE.

SPECIAL BULLETIN

THIS IS AN *ENN* SPECIAL BULLETIN!

MY FELLOW CITIZENS--

--AS YOU ALL KNOW, ELECTION SEASON IS UPON US--

--AND ALTHOUGH A LARGE NUMBER OF YOU HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION--

--AFTER MUCH CONSIDERATION, I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO RUN FOR THE POSITION OF HIGH COUNCILOR EVER AGAIN!

OUR SOCIETY NOW STANDS AT A CROSSROADS, AND I BELIEVE ONLY NEW LEADERSHIP CAN PROVIDE THE NEW IDEAS NECESSARY TO SEE US THROUGH.

THEREFORE, I WILL ANNOUNCE MY RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED ME AT A RALLY IN GUARDIANS' PARK AT NOON TOMORROW!

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL LIKE-MINDED FELLOW CITIZENS COME OUT AND SHOW THEIR SUPPORT!

THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT!

KLIK!

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT *MEANS*, GENERAL?

FURTHER ECHIDNA *TREACHERY*, MOST LIKELY, GERBIL!

WE'LL KNOW FOR *CERTAIN* COME TOMORROW!

KLIK!

NOW *THIS* WAS A DEVELOPMENT I HADN'T *ANTICIPATED*!

I BETTER SCHEDULE *EXTRA TROOPS* ON HAND JUST IN CASE!

YO', PAPA! I WANT MY *RAP TV*!

HEY! PUT A SOCK IN IT, WILLYA?

STUPID POLITICIANS! ALWAYS *JIVIN'* US!

IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHO* GETS *ELECTED* ANYWAY, RIGHT, KNUCKLES?

" WHO CARES? NONE OF IT CONCERNS ME, ANYWAY! "

TESTING! TESTING! ONE... TWO... THREE... CHECK! CHECK!

...THREE... CHECK! CHECK!

DINGOES HAVE RIGHTS.

ELECTION NIGHT

YOU WERE SAYING?

I'M A GUARDIAN, VECTOR!

I GO WHERE I'M NEEDED!

DINGO POWER!

I DON'T SUPPOSE A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD YOU TO COME HERE?

GUARDIAN!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

CONSTABLE REMINGTON, NO PROBLEMO!

YOU SHARE A DIRECT LINE WITH THIS DUDE OR WHAT, KNUX?

NOT YET!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, AFTER THIS RALLY IS OVER, I'D APPRECIATE A BIT OF YOUR TIME TO WORK OUT A BETTER SYSTEM, GUARDIAN!

WHAT COULD BE EASIER THAN LEAVING WORD AT MY MOTHER'S PLACE?

ANYWAY, HOW COME YOU WANTED ME HERE?

I RECENTLY HAD A DISCUSSION WITH HIGH COUNCILOR PRAVDA ABOUT HIS RE-ELECTION PLANS--

--AND HE EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO KEEP EVERYTHING LOW-KEY, SINCE HE WAS FACING ONLY A TOKEN BATTLE FROM THE LEADER OF THE LOYAL OPPOSITION!

SO WHAT CHANGED THE STATUS QUO?

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AN *EXCELLENT* QUESTION!

AND I BELIEVE OUR *ANSWER* IS NOW ARRIVING!

HUH?

DIG THE WHEELS!

THE *HIGH COUNCILOR* IS *AUTHORIZED* THE USE OF SUCH A VEHICLE!

DON'T YOU FIND IT KINDA' *STRANGE* FOR A PEOPLE WHO *RENOUNCED* TECHNOLOGY?

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A *SYSTEM* TO *DECIDE* SUCH MATTERS, GUARDIAN!

THOSE THAT *HAVE* GET TO MAKE THE *RULES*, EH, CONSTABLE?

SAAAY!! WHO'S THAT DUDE *TRAILIN'* AFTER THE *LORD HIGH MUCK-A-MUCK?!*

I'M GETTING SOME *BAD* FEELINGS, CONSTABLE!

WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON *PRAVDA'S SHADOW?*

THAT'S JUST IT! I'VE *NEVER* SEEN *THAT* OFFICIAL *BEFORE!*

MY FELLOW CITIZENS--

--I HAVE ASKED YOU HERE TODAY BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF A *NEW ERA*--

--AN ERA WHICH REQUIRES THE LEADERSHIP OF SOMEONE MORE *ADAPTIVE* TO THE CHANGING TIMES!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

--I PRESENT TO YOU--

--OUR NEXT HIGH COUNCILOR--

BENEDICT!

CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

MY FRIENDS--

--CENTURIES AGO, OUR *FOREFATHERS* WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE THREAT OF *ANNIHILATION* FROM THE HEAVENS ABOVE!

THEY DID NOT *PANIC*, NOR DID THEY ABANDON *HOPE*!

INSTEAD, THEY UTILIZED STATE-OF-THE-ART *TECHNOLOGY* THEY THEMSELVES *CREATED* AND *DEVELOPED*! A PRODUCT OF THEIR *EXTRAORDINARY* INTELLIGENCE!

IN *SAVING* THEMSELVES, THE FLOATING ISLAND BECAME A *REALITY*!

BUT WHEN THE MEANS TO *RESTORE* OUR HOME TO THE *MOTHER PLANET* WAS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION--

-- IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT A *SELECT FEW* MADE IT THEIR AGENDA TO *CONDEMN* THE MAJORITY TO THE *DARK AGES*!

HAVING RENDERED A *DECISION*--

--THEY TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO TAKE *ACTION*--

--EXPRESSLY *FORBIDDING* A FELLOW ECHIDNA FROM SHOWING US THE PATH TO *SALVATION*!

AND THEN--

--THEY HAD THE ABSOLUTE *TEMERITY* TO TURN *HIS OWN BROTHER* AGAINST HIM!

"WELL, I SAY TO YOU UPON THIS VERY DAY--AFTER SO *MANY GENERATIONS* OF MAINTAINING THE *STATUS QUO*--"

TONIGHT--

--YOU WILL BE GIVEN A CHOICE--

--YOUR FIRST *REAL CHOICE* IN AGES--

--BETWEEN *BURYING* YOUR HEADS IN THE *SAND* AND LISTENING TO THE *LIES* OF THE *OLD, CORRUPT REGIME*--

--OR *EMBRACING* OUR *COMMON HERITAGE* AND *UTILIZING* THE *TECHNOLOGY* WE *OURSELVES* CREATED!

I THEREFORE SAY TO YOU--

--ASK NOT WHAT THE HEIRS OF DIMITRI CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE HEIRS OF DIMITRI!
LET THE WORD GO FORTH—A VOTE FOR ME—
—IS A VOTE FOR OUR FREEDOM!
HAIL DIMITRI!
TECHNOLOGY NOW!! TECHNOLOGY FOREVER!!!

HAIL DYMITRY!

THEY NEVER GIVE UP, DO THEY?

HE DOES HAVE A POINT, SABRE!

WHEN YOU STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT--

-- WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE THE HYPOCRITES!

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS LOOK NO FARTHER THAN THIS ROOM!

I HAVE, GRANDFATHER SOJOURNER--

--AND ALL I SEE ARE THE MEANS TO COMBAT THE ENEMY ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD!

BESIDES, OUR FOREFATHER, EDMUND, NEVER MEANT TO SUPPRESS TECHNOLOGY FOREVER!

SAYS WHO? WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?

GO EASY, SOJOURNER!

YOU KNOW SABRE IS NOT ONE TO ENGAGE IN IDLE DEBATE!

THOUGH I APPRECIATE THUNDERHAWK'S COMMENTS, THEY'RE COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY!

BREEP BREEP BREEP

ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY SEE THE--!

THE ALARM!!!

KABOOM!

FWOP!

TOK!

TOK!

BATTERING RAM TO EAGLE FOUR--

"—HAVEN HAS NOW FALLEN TO US!"

Ahh, CONSTABLE REMINGTON!

COME TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MY CANDIDACY, EH?

SMART MOVE!

ONLY DOING MY JOB, CITIZEN BENEDICT!

IT WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CHIEF LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO TAKE SIDES POLITICALLY!

AND YOU ARE TREADING ON VER-RY THIN ICE, CITIZEN!

I COULD'VE ARRESTED YOU FOR INCITING TO RIOT!

ON WHAT GROUNDS, CONSTABLE?

HOW ABOUT AIDING AND ABETTING KNOWN CRIMINALS FOR STARTERS?

TECHNICALLY, I STILL HAVE OUTSTANDING WARRANTS FOR A GOOD MANY OF YOUR "SUPPORTERS"!

ON MY AUTHORITY, YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING!

WHAT YOU W LL DO, CONSTABLE--

--IS ACCOMPANY US SO WE CAN ALL DISCUSS THE MATTER IN PRIVATE

I DON'T GET IT, KNUCKLES-

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open only to legal U.S. residents. Game void where prohibited by law. Game starts on or about February [illegible] 1999 and ends on April 5, 1999. [illegible] of Regular Oreo cookies and 2 10 oz. packages of Double Stuf Oreo cookies. If you find a winning certificate and a specially imprinted cookie inside a package of cookies, you are a winner of the prize indicated on the certificate, subject to verification. Winning certificates must be submitted, as described below, before a prize will be awarded.

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--WHY DID YOU MOVE TO THE BACK?

SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE HIGH COUNCILOR OR SOMETHING?

SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE, ESPY!

REMINGTON'S AGENTS SHOULD BE ROUNDING UP EVERY DARK LEGIONNAIRE IN SIGHT--

PLEASE PROCEED FROM THE PARK IN AN ORDERLY FASHION! THANK YOU!

--AND YET, THEY'RE ALLOWED TO WALK AROUND AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

I MEAN--

--WHO CARES THAT THEY TRIED TO INVADE ECHIDNAOPOLIS, RIGHT?*

*AS CHRONICLED IN KNUCKLES #7 THROUGH 9, THE DARK VENGEANCE STORYLINE -- JUSTIN.

LIVE AND LET LIVE, I ALWAYS SAY, KNUCKLES!

I'D RATHER LIVE AND LET DIE, MIGHTY!

I OWE THOSE GUYS BIG TIME!

SO WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY'RE UP TO?

AS IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PALS HAVE GOING DOWN, [redacted] BABE!

"FORMER" YOU MEAN, DON'T YOU, VECTOR?

CHILL OUT, VECTOR--

"-- JULIE -SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN WE DO, BUT I'M BETTING I KNOW SOMEONE *ELSE* WHO *DOES*..."

INFIGHTING AMONGST THE *ECHIONAS*!

NOW *THAT* IS AN *INTERESTING* DEVELOPMENT!

THE LARGER QUESTION NOW BEING-

-- HOW CAN I *EXPLOIT* THE SITUATION TO *OUR ADVANTAGE*?

BETTER TO *RISK EVERYTHING* THAN CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS FILTH AND SQUALOR!

GERBIL!

GATHER EVERYONE AROUND!

RIGHT AWAY, GENERAL, SIR!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

Uhh-?

REALLY?

I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM COWARDS WHO SKULK IN THE SHADOWS!

COWARD?

XENIN HAS BEEN CALLED MANY THINGS--

-EFFICIENT--

--LOYAL--

--EVEN RUTHLESS-

--BUT NEVER A COWARD!

THWAK

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT EFFRONTERY, ECHIDNA!

ECHIDNA?!!

ECHIDNA?!

I AM MUCH MORE THAN JUST AN ECHIDNA!!!

I AM AN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER!

STOMP!

WOOF!

A TERMINATOR WHO WILL NOT BE STOPPED -NOR EVER CONQUERED- BY THE WEAK AND INDIGENT!

"oooh..."

NOW TAKE THIS WORTHLESS PIECE OF GARBAGE TO THE COMMAND CENTER!

AS FOR THE REST OF THIS VERMIN--

"-- LOCK THEM UP IN THE SEWERS WHERE THEY BELONG!"

DO YOU EVER WISH IT WAS THE WAY IT USED TO BE, KNUCKLES?

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, KNUX, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN REALLY NASTY AROUND HERE!

TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW, MIGHTY!

WHEN THERE WAS NO DARK LEGION OR ECHIDNAOPOLIS OR ANY OTHER COMPLICATION?

YOU MEAN *BEFORE* I LEARNED MY MOM WAS *ALIVE* AND ECHIDNAOPOLIS *STILL EXISTED?*

YEAH!

NO! I NEVER GAVE IT A THOUGHT!

YO, DUDES! DID YOU CATCH *THAT?!*

YEAH! *RIGHT*!

CATCH *WHAT?*

THAT LOOKED LIKE A TRUCK FULL OF *DINGOES!*

AND THEY DIDN'T LOOK TOO *HAPPY*, EITHER!

WHEN DO THEY *EVER?*

HALT!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!!!

NOW THERE'S A *WICKED, FAMILIAR SOUND!*

IT SHOULD BE!

I'VE BEEN *ORDERED* TO BRING YOU *BACK*, JULIE-SU!

DEAD OR ALIVE, MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME, BUT *GREAT DIMITRI* HAS DECREED YOUR PLACE IS AMONG US *ONCE AGAIN!*

SUPPOSE I SAY, "THANKS BUT *NO* THANKS!"

SUPPOSE I MISS AND ACCIDENTALLY KILL YOU IF YOU REFUSE!

ZZZZAT!

THAT WASN'T TOO FRIENDLY, PAL!

TIME FOR YOU TO CRAWL BACK UNDER YOUR ROCK!

KRAAM!!

NOT EVEN A DENT!

I WAS REBUILT TO BE YOUR SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY!

AND NOW--

--IT'S MY TURN--

--"PAL!!"

THWAAM!

WOOF!

"NOW, BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE MAKES LIKE A HERO OR GETS OTHER SELF-DELUSIONAL IDEAS--DON'T!"

HOW?

HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO PENETRATE HAVEN?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, THUNDERHAWK?

ONLY ONE BEING OTHER THAN ONE OF OUR OWN COULD HAVE DONE SO!

ON THE OTHER HAND, TREACHERY SEEMS TO BE A VIRTUE AMONG THEIR KIND!

IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE!

I DARE SAY WE'RE NO MORE OR LESS TREACHEROUS THAN ANY OF YOU!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT--

--MORITORI REX?

MY FORMER COMRADES!

HOW GOOD IT IS TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN!

EXCUSE US IF THE FEELING ISN'T MUTUAL!

THAT'S QUITE ALRIGHT, AS YOU'LL SOON LEARN THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS!

OPEN A CHANNEL TO MAIN BASE, TROOPER!

AYE, SIR!

YES ?

WE'VE *TAKEN* HAVEN, GRANDFATHER!

EXCEPT FOR A COUPLE OF LOOSE ENDS, EVERYTHING ELSE IS *SECURED* !

LOOSE ENDS ?

THERE'S *NO SIGN* OF LOCKE OR SPECTRE *WITHIN* THE COMPLEX !

THAT *IS* A *PROBLEM* !

YES, IT IS, GREAT ONE. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE HIS SON, *LOCKE* CAN BE *UTTERLY RUTHLESS* !

AS FOR *SPECTRE*, HE'S A *WILD CARD* ! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL *DO* !

FOR THE TIME BEING, MORITORI, SIMPLY *PROCEED* ACCORDING TO *PLAN* ! DIMITRI *OUT* !

THEY AREN'T THE *ONLY* ONES YOU HAVE TO *WORRY* ABOUT !

YOU THINK THE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO *BUY* YOUR BOY *BENEDICT* ?

NOT ONCE I BLOW THE WHISTLE ON HIM THEY *WON'T* !

ASTONISHING !

AFTER ALL THIS TIME

--AND ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH--*

--YOU STILL HAVE THE *UNMITIGATED* NERVE TO *CHALLENGE* MY DOMINION!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR YOU WERE MORE *MY* DESCENDENT THAN MY BROTHER'S!

DON'T *FLATTER* YOURSELF, BUD!

IF THIS IS THE *WORST* YOU CAN DO--

--WAKE ME WHEN IT'S *OVER*!

OVER?

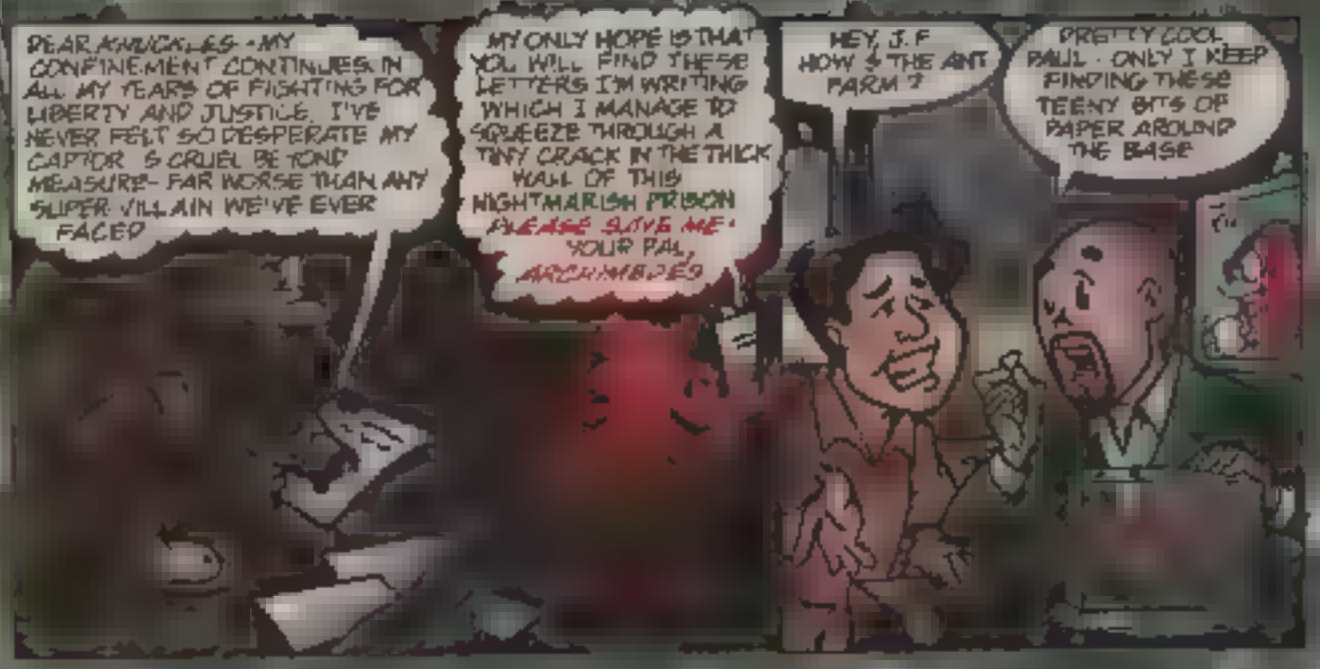
MY DEAR KNUCKLES--

--THIS IS ONLY THE *BEGINNING*!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME SERIOUS *SCREAMING*!

*CHECK OUT THE *FIRST* KNUCKLES MINI-SERIES AS WELL AS KNUCKLES #7 THROUGH 9 FOR EVENTS DIMITRI IS REFERRING TO -HISTORIAN JUSTIN.

VALENTINO HARTO


DEAR KNUCKLES - MY CONFINEMENT CONTINUES IN ALL MY YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE, I'VE NEVER FELT SO DESPERATE MY CAPTOR IS CRUEL BEYOND MEASURE- FAR WORSE THAN ANY SUPER VILLAIN WE'VE EVER FACED
MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL FIND THESE LETTERS I'M WRITING WHICH I MANAGE TO SQUEEZE THROUGH A TINY CRACK IN THE THICK WALL OF THIS NIGHTMARISH PRISON PLEASE SAVE ME! YOUR PAL, ARCHIMEDES
HEY, J.F. HOW'S THE ANT FARM?
PRETTY COOL, PAUL - ONLY I KEEP FINDING THESE TEENY BITS OF PAPER AROUND THE BASE

OFF PANEL by Gallagher & Manek

THIS JUST IN!

What's up guys and gals? Hope the holidays brought you all that you wished for. Here at the Sonic & Knuckles office, things are definitely on the up and up. As a book that is generally a newsstand book (meaning most of our sales come from grocery stores, mini-marts, subscriptions, and -duh- the newsstand) we are finally starting to gain attention in the superhero driven direct market (your specialty comic book shops).

In lieu of this, certain direct market fanzines such as Wizard and especially Comic Buyers Guide (CBG) and Comic Shop News (CSN) have helped more readers find our book. The latest is something all Sonic and Knuckles fans should be made aware of: CSN, a free weekly fanzine, will be printing a Sonic and Knuckles strip for fourteen weeks straight with the first installment starting in the first week of May. Though it is a way to introduce new readers to our favorite characters, current readers will want to get it themselves since it will be placed in continuity (specifically between Sonic #73 & #74 and between Knuckles #25 & #26). The story: What do Sonic & Knuckles do when they make up (in each other's eyes)? They create mayhem, what else?

All this is mainly due to you fans who have supported our books and spread the word around. For that we say our thanks. We all have something in common: a love for a certain Blue Blur and Rad Red and the world they live in. So let's spread that love around to new hog & knux fans around the world.

As they say, The more the merrier!

Catch you on the flip side!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor

LETTERS

Send letters to:
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of mail, it is impossible for us to reply to each and every message. However your opinions are much appreciated by us and will be taken into consideration. Also, due to space limitations some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Re: KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #17 & #18 (Deep Cover)–

Knux.

Let me take a moment to say that Ken Penders, Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy make a great team. They mastered it! I've just read KNUCKLES #18. Was that great! I can't wait for issue #19. What will happen when the underground guardians find out Tolor is not an actual guardian? Until next time, keep cool!

John Lowe
Pleasureville, KY
lowe@thepublic@juno.com

Thanks, John. Your comments are most appreciated.

Dear Knuckles,

You should get together with Sally. Julie-Su isn't your type. If she should get together with anyone, it should be Espio. Trust me... I'm a matchmaker.

Andra Sunderlin
Fountain, CO

Anyone else agree with her?

Re: Knuckles #17:

When Hawking picks up his son, Tolor, from the ruins... wouldn't he have known that the young Dark Legionnaire he picked up wasn't his son? I mean, considering how badly torn his clothes were, he would have seen that the echidna he picked up did not have a white collar thing, as all guardians do. (Yes, I have too much time on my hands.)

-Visser 1
hansonm@okanagan.net

Well, Visser 1, that is a most interesting hypothesis. It was well thought out, but if you think about it more carefully, the answer is right there waiting to be found. As it is, we are currently working on a story that answers the real questions on the 'white collar.'

To the wonderful people at Archie Comics.

KNUCKLES #18 should be the best comic book of 1998! It was a very good climax to a very good story arc. I also like the unresolved ending since it paves the way for a lot more intriguing possibilities. With everything happening recently, I wonder why the Brotherhood seem so be afraid of Knuckles and his new-found powers. In issue #12, Sabre compared his powers to Dimitri's (as Enerjak). Why? If Locke raised Knux right, he taught him the difference between right and wrong, so why would Knux want to act like Dimitri and take over Echidnapolis? If I were Locke, I would be offended by Sabre's comments. It's clear that they are concerned about Julie-Su. They have a right to fear her and the effects she may have on Knuckles. On another note, Echidnapolis' enemies have not really been defeated. Dimitri, Enerjak, The Dark Legion and Mammoth Mogul are still big threats. The Brotherhood should discuss that instead of Knuckles (if they're so worried about him maybe they should confront him already) and be their parts as well.

XPDNC
St. Louis, MO

Thanks for the kind words, XPDNC. As you know by now, they have confronted Knuckles and no one knows whether that was a good idea at this point or not. This, of course, with KNUCKLES #25 right around the corner. Wait until you read THAT book for the confrontation of the decade. As far as your other points are concerned, all we can say (you knew this was coming) is to keep reading!

Well, that's it for this month. Thank you all for your comments. See you in thirty. And remember...

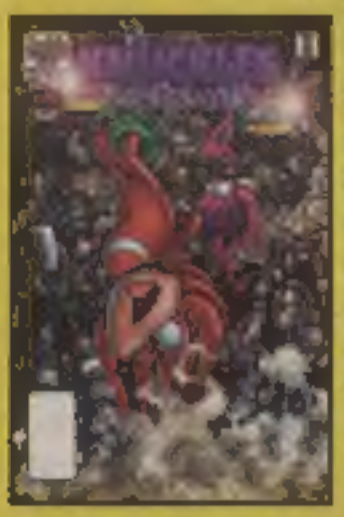
KEEP COOL!

Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Laughton Huggins and Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In two weeks: The Gulag escapees have kidnapped Nate Morgan! What will Sonic and The Freedom Fighters do when they are NOT allowed to save him! Especially since the one sent to save him, St. John, is not very sympathetic toward Overlanders. Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Sonic gets nightmares about his standings as a hero! By Paul Castiglia, Chris Allan and Jim Amash! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #70 on sale late February 1999!

Next Month: Knuckles in chains? The Brotherhood — captured? Haven is under control of... The Dark Legion? Has everyone on The Floating Island gone mad? And all this is happening on the eve of elections, when the stakes are at their highest. Dimitri is one happy puppy. Check out the conclusion to the "Dark Alliance" story arc written by Ken Penders with guest art by Jim Valentino and Harvo! KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #24 on sale early March 1999!



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